

October 15, 1997

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Health Policy and Planning Division
1600 9th Street, Room 350
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Colleagues:

We have reviewed the data presented in the draft reports sent to us a few weeks ago and find the Petaluma Valley Hospital data to be consistent with our own findings as we have continued to study acute MI. We at PVH appreciate the opportunity to participate in the AMI study conducted by OSHPD and find the reports to be impressive in their level of detail.

We would like to comment on some improvements to the later states of the study. In this era of increased efforts at reducing length of stay, there is a great tendency to transfer patients to other levels of care or acuity, which previously had taken them out of the study. Subsequent deaths were not accounted for (nor were hospitals always aware of ultimate patient outcomes). However, looking at deaths within 30 days regardless of location, be it skilled nursing, home or acute care; gives a much more accurate picture of post-MI mortality than looking only at deaths during acute hospitalization. In addition, adjusting for risk factors present on admission vs. factors that are likely complications of care/treatment, provides for a more realistic measure of complexity and risk. The efforts at risk-adjustment are appreciated, particularly as PVH is one of the participants with smaller volumes as well as high average ages and thus subject to much statistical variation.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to participate in this study and look forward to the final report.

Sincerely,

PETALUMA VALLEY HOSPITAL



Neil E. Martin
President/CEO